

## Austria suspects U.S. ploy

## Soviet plan for invasion revealed

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Vienna—Sensational disclosures in an Austrian magazine of a Soviet contingency plan to invade and occupy large parts of Western Europe have caused a political and diplomatic uproar here.

First published in *Profil* in February, the article, which stems from an interview with Jan Sejna, the Czech general who defected to the West in 1968 and now is living in the United States, has convinced Austrian officials that the U.S. deliberately planted the disclosures.

Though these officials express puzzlement over the possible motives of the U.S., they point out that Mr. Sejna, said to be under the care of the Central Intelligence Agency, could not have revealed the so-called Polarka Plan without U.S. government approval.

As revealed by Mr. Sejna, the scenario, which would be based on real, manipulated or fabricated events, calls for the death of President Tito of Yugoslavia, subsequent unrest in the country and a call for Soviet help in quelling the disorder.

Austria would allow fascist groups to use the country for staging attacks on Yugoslavia in violation of the 1955 state treaty that established Austrian neutrality.

A blitz attack by 50,000 Czech and Hungarian troops into Austria would be coordinated with a Soviet invasion of Yugoslavia through Hungary. Most of Austria would be brought under control within 24 hours and another contingent of about 400,000 Soviet troops would march through the country and into Yugoslavia from the northwest.

The Sejna revelations were published in February by *Profil*, an Austrian news magazine, and a portion of the interview was broadcast on Austrian television.

Exactly why the Americans

allowed full disclosure of the Polarka Plan at this time as is believed here—is a matter for speculation, though it is generally thought that it was intended to sway public opinion in Austria, widely criticized for a woefully inadequate defense system; to counter a marked pro-Soviet trend in Yugoslavia; and to gain support in West Germany, where the government is caught in the middle of a U.S.-French feud.

Most Austrians seem to take it for granted that the Americans arranged the interview with Mr. Sejna for some political purpose.

Werner Stanzl, a former Austrian television correspondent and now a staff writer for the Vienna-based *Profil* magazine, said he suspected that ex-General Sejna brought out plans involving Austria when he defected.

Mr. Stanzl said he tried to obtain an interview for three or four years. He tried through the Pentagon, various American embassies and through unofficial contacts, but without success. Last October, in the course of a conversation with an American contact, whom he had met though Czech emigre circles, he brought up his request again.

To his surprise, Mr. Stanzl said, the contact said that perhaps he could be of some help and Mr. Stanzl subsequently received a post office box number in a Washington suburb, to which he wrote.

## Safeway parking lot

A few days later a cable came from Washington, instructing him to call a certain telephone number in Washington at a given time. Mr. Stanzl was in London on assignment at the time. When he called the number three days too late he received no reply.

A few days later he received a call from Washington from a man who identified himself as "Mr. Johnson" and as a friend of Mr. Sejna.

Over the next 10 days, Mr. Stanzl said, Mr. Johnson called him 6 or 7 times, each conversation lasting from 40 to 50

minutes, to find out all the questions Mr. Stanzl wanted to ask and to arrange details of his travel plans.

Mr. Stanzl said when he suggested that he might bring along a free-lance television cameraman, Mr. Johnson encouraged the idea.

Finally, Mr. Stanzl was instructed to show up with his cameraman at a Safeway parking lot on Cincinnati avenue in Washington at 9 A.M. Sunday, December 16. They were to take a taxi to get there, send the cab off, and they would be picked up by a black limousine.

All went according to schedule and Mr. Stanzl and his cameraman were met by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Stanzl described his host as definitely an American—judging from his English and mannerisms—but he spoke perfect German.

## Heavy snowstorm

Mr. Johnson drove around in circles for some time, apparently to make sure they were not being followed, then drove to a house in a middle-class residential neighborhood, not far from the rendezvous point. Mr. Stanzl and his cameraman were told to forget the address and not to photograph the house.

Inside the house Mr. Stanzl and his cameraman were searched and their luggage checked by four men, who Mr. Sejna later identified as FBI men assigned to him as bodyguards. At one point during their stay, Mr. Stanzl said, he noticed that the men had sub-machine guns kept behind the draperies.

Mr. Stanzl was told that he must stay in the house and once he left it the interview would be over. As it turned out, there was a heavy snowstorm and he remained at the house for three days and two nights, talking to the general from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M.

He also received photocopies of the Polarka Plan that then-General Sejna smuggled out to the West in 1968.

Mr. Stanzl said he was requested or paid for the interview or his stay, and when he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Johnson, his host replied, "Don't mention it. We all serve a good cause."

When the *Profil* article appeared, there were rumors at the same time that the 81-year-old Marshal Tito was gravely ill. They were followed by reports, mainly in West German newspapers, of Warsaw Pact maneuvers in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, other unusual military activity, and the movement of two Soviet airborne brigades from Czechoslovakia to Hungary.

## Called authentic

Military sources in West Germany and Austria insist that all the reports of extraordinary military activity in the East bloc were completely unfounded.

The American Embassy here disclaimed any prior knowledge of the Sejna interview and could shed no light on the subsequent scare stories.

The reaction of the Austrian government was also curious.

Mr. Stanzl said that upon this return to Vienna after interviewing Mr. Sejna, he went directly to Gen. Karl Luetgendorf, the Austrian defense minister, for confirmation of what he had learned.

Mr. Stanzl said the minister told him that the Austrian government had long ago been informed of the Polarka Plan, and that what the Czech defector had told Mr. Stanzl was authentic.

General Luetgendorf, however, said he could not publicly confirm the plan before getting the approval of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. It is not clear whether Mr. Kreisky ever gave the official green light to his defense minister, but it has been confirmed that Rudolf Kirschschläger, the foreign minister, gave his approval.

Subsequently, General Luetgendorf gave an interview to *Profil* as well as to ORF, the Austrian television station, in